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APRIL 20, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KISSINGER  
FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM  
SUBJECT: ~~MORNING NEWS SUMMARY~~

THE WASHINGTON POST

PETER BRAFSTRUP REPORTS ON THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MIG RAID ON U.S. NAVY SHIPS OFF THE COAST OF NORTH VIETNAM. HE NOTES THAT THE MIG RAID WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AN ATTACK FROM NORTH VIETNAMESE TORPEDO BOATS, TWO OF WHICH WERE SUNK. (A-1)

ACCORDING TO MURREY HARDER, REMARKS BY SECRETARY ROGERS AND OTHER STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMEN SEEM TO INDICATE A DESIRE TO AVOID JEOPARDIZING PRESIDENT NIXON'S MOSCOW TRIP BY LEVELING OFF OR ROLLING BACK THE ESCALATING U.S. RHETORIC AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION. AT THE SAME TIME, THE ADMINISTRATION REPORTEDLY WANTS TO KEEP PUTTING PUBLIC PRESSURE ON SOVIET ARMS SHIPMENTS TO NVN, BUT WITHOUT CONVERTING THE DISPUTE INTO AN EXTREME PUBLIC CHALLENGE TO SOVIET PRESTIGE. (A-1)

SPENCER RICH DISCUSSES THE HOT DEBATE ON CAPITOL HILL OVER THE WAR IN VIETNAM. A HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS, STARTING A SERIES OF VOTES THAT CONTINUE TODAY, NARROWLY REJECTED A DEMAND FOR AN END TO ALL AMERICAN FIGHTING IN INDOCHINA WITHIN 30 DAYS. (A-1)

PETER MILIUS NOTES THAT INFLATION IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1972 CUT A 11.8 RISE IN THE GNP TO 5.3. (A-1)

ACCORDING TO NICK KOTZ, AGRICULTURE SECRETARY BUTZ SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE U.S. "HAS MADE SOME PROGRESS" TOWARD GRAIN SALES TO THE USSR THAT COULD AMOUNT TO \$250 MILLION A YEAR FOR 12 YEARS. BUTZ CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT COMPLETION OF A MAJOR GRAIN DEAL PROBABLY WILL HINGE ON REACHING A BROAD POLITICAL AGREEMENT ON MANY ISSUES. (A-2)

A POST EDITORIAL ON THE BOMBING OF NVN ASSERTS THAT IF PRESIDENT NIXON DOES DECIDE TO MAKE FURTHER B-52 RAIDS ON NORTH

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VIETNAM'S MOST HEAVILY POPULATED AND -- BECAUSE OF THE DIKES -- MOST VULNERABLE AREAS, HE WILL BE WIDE OPEN TO THE CHARGE THAT HE IS INDIFFERENT TO THE DANGER OF KILLING CIVILIANS AND DESTROYING CIVILIAN CENTERS AND WORKS FOR THE SAKE OF MAKING A DIPLOMATIC OR POLITICAL IMPACT ON MOSCOW. THE ITEM ALSO NOTES THAT PRESIDENT JOHNSON DID NOT USE THE B-52S AS FAR NORTH AS HANOI AND HAIPHONG. (A-21)

ANOTHER EDITORIAL POINTS OUT THAT IN ADDITION TO THE POLITICAL AND SENTIMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S PLANNED STOPOVER IN POLAND, HE HAS COME TO ACCEPT THIS REGION (EASTERN EUROPE) AS A PLACE WHERE MORE AMERICAN BUSINESS SHOULD BE DONE. (A-20)

PRESIDENT AND MRS. NIXON HAVE ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT SECRETARY CONNALLY'S TEXAS RANCH ON APRIL 30 FOR "SUPPER" IF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION PERMITS. (A-6)

JONATHAN RANDAL REPORTS THAT CHILE AND 14 OF ITS PRINCIPAL CREDITORS REACHED A COMPROMISE AGREEMENT ON RESCHEDULING ITS FOREIGN DEBT. (A-8)

LEE LESCAZE NOTES THAT CHINA'S REACTION TO INCREASED U.S. BOMBING OF NVN AND THE FIRST USE OF B-52S AGAINST HAIPHONG HAS BEEN MILD AND STRIKINGLY UNCONCERNED. THIS CALM TONE REFLECTS CHINA'S NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. FOLLOWING PRESIDENT NIXON'S CHINA VISIT AND THE APPARENT LACK OF CHINESE ENTHUSIASM FOR THE CURRENT NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFENSIVE, WHICH WAS MORE CLOSELY COORDINATED WITH RUSSIA THAN CHINA. (A-29)

ACCORDING TO JACK ANDERSON, PRESIDENT NIXON ORDERED THE BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM AS MUCH TO IMPRESS MOSCOW AS TO DETER HANOI. HE WANTED THE KREMLIN TO UNDERSTAND HIS QUEST FOR PEACE DOESN'T MEAN HE CAN BE "PUSHED" AROUND. (G-15)

#### THE NEW YORK TIMES

ACCORDING TO ANTHONY RIPLEY, A GROUP OF EX-OFFICERS HAVE ACCUSED THE ARMY OF NOT INVESTIGATING WHAT THEY TERMED WERE BLATANT VIOLATIONS OF NATIONAL SECURITY RULES, INCLUDING POSSIBLE COMPROMISE OF BOTH SECRET INFORMATION AND CODES, AT AN ARMY NUCLEAR INSTALLATION ASSIGNED TO HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE. (A-3)

IN AN INTERVIEW FILMED ON APRIL 5 AND TELEVISED YESTERDAY ON THE "TODAY" SHOW, CHOU EN-LAI REITERATED CHINA'S SUPPORT OF VIETNAM'S COMMUNISTS IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST "THE UNITED

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STATES GOVERNMENT'S WAR OF AGGRESSION." HE SAID THERE COULD BE NO RELAXATION OF TENSION IN THE FAR EAST UNTIL THE WAR IN INDOCHINA HAD ENDED. HOWEVER, CHOU DID NOT REPUDIATE THE RESULTS OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S TRIP TO CHINA, CHARACTERIZING IT AS "AT LEAST A START" TOWARDS MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. (A-20)

TILLMAN DURDIN WRITES THAT, ACCORDING TO MOSCOW RADIO BROADCAST BEAMED TO CHINA, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT REJECTED A SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR UNITED ACTION IN SUPPORT OF THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS. THE BROADCAST STRESSED THE USSR'S MATERIAL, DIPLOMATIC, AND PROPAGANDA AID TO NORTH VIETNAM. (A-21)

HEDRICK SMITH NOTES THE ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW OF THE PRESIDENT'S ADVANCE PARTY, LED BY BRIGADIER GENERAL SCOWCROFT. HE ADDS THAT BOTH SIDES HELD PUBLICITY ON THE ADVANCE PARTY'S ARRIVAL TO A MINIMUM, THE SOVIETS PROVIDING NEITHER PRESS NOR TELEVISION COVERAGE. (A-21)

#### THE BALTIMORE SUN

HEADLINES REPORT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AIR AND SHIP ATTACK ON U.S. NAVY VESSELS OFF THE COAST OF NORTH VIETNAM. (A-1)

MICHAEL PARKS WRITES THAT AMERICAN AIRCRAFT RESUMED THEIR HEAVY RAIDS ON NVN YESTERDAY, BUT CONFINED THE STRIKES TO THE COUNTRY'S SOUTHERNMOST REGION. (A-1)

*ACCORDING TO PETER KUMPA THE*  
~~RECENT~~ BITTER QUARRELS IN CONGRESS YESTERDAY SHOWED THAT PRESIDENT NIXON'S HANDLING OF THE INDO-CHINA SITUATION, PARTICULARLY THE RENEWED BOMBING, WAS GROVED INTO MORE OF A PARTY-LINE ISSUE THAN A BATTLE BETWEEN HAWKS AND DOVES. (A-1)

TO KISSINGER  
FROM: SITUATION ROOM  
PEACE TALKS

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C/23 UNCLAS

PARIS (AP)—THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CHIEF DELEGATE WINTED TODAY THAT HIS SIDE IS READY TO RESUME THE PARIS TALKS EVEN BEFORE BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM IS ORDERED STOPPED. XUAN THUY'S STAND APPEARED TO BE A SOFTENING OF NORTH VIETNAMESE DEMANDS HE MADE EARLIER THIS WEEK WHEN HE SAID TALKS SHOULD BEGIN AND THE BOMBING SHOULD CEASE SIMULTANEOUSLY. ANSWERING A QUESTION AT A NEWS CONFERENCE, XUAN THUY SAID: "IF THE UNITED STATES ANSWERS POSITIVELY TO OUR PROPOSAL TO HOLD A MEETING ON APRIL 27, WE WILL COME TO THE CONFERENCE. BUT WE WILL CONTINUE TO DEMAND THE CESSATION OF THE BOMBING." EARLIER IN THE DAY, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION FORMALLY ASKED THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH VIETNAM TO RESUME THE PEACE TALKS APRIL 27.

"THE TOTAL AND UNCONDITIONAL CESSATION OF TNGHBOMBING OVER THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IS A PRINCIPLE AND WE STILL DEMAND THAT THE UNITED STATES RESPECT THIS PRINCIPLE," XUAN THUY SAID. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATE SUMMONED REPORTERS TO MAKE PUBLIC THE GIST OF AN UNWRITTEN SECRET PLEDGE BY THE UNITED STATES IN OCTOBER 1968, IN WHICH HE SAID THE AMERICANS COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO STOP THE BOMBING OF THE NORTH WITHOUT CONDITIONS. THIS AGREEMENT, XUAN THUY SAID, OPENED THE WAY FOR THE PEACE TALKS.

"BUT NOW," HE WENT ON, "THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION INVENTS THE STORY OF NORTH VIETNAM'S VIOLATION OF AN UNDERSTANDING BUT THERE WAS NO UNDERSTANDING WHATSOEVER."

"THIS IS SIMILAR TO THE CASE OF THE SO-CALLED TONKIN GULF INCIDENTS WHICH THE UNITED STATES FABRICATED IN AUGUST 1964, TO HAVE A PRETEXT FOR ITS BOMBARDMENTS AGAINST" NORTH VIETNAM.

SP1225PES

APRIL 28

IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE RESUMPTION OF THE BOMBARDMENTS BY THE UNITED STATES "CONSTITUTES A SERIOUS VIOLATION OF THE COMMITMENT WHICH THE UNITED STATES MADE AT THE CONVERSATIONS IN PARIS IN OCTOBER 1968, AND WHICH SERVED AS THE BASIS FOR THE CONVENING OF THE PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM," THUY ASSEPTED.

THUY SAID HIS DELEGATION DECIDED TO MAKE PUBLIC THE ESSENTIAL CONTENTS OF THE UNWRITTEN AGREEMENT REACHED WITH THE UNITED STATES TO "HELP WORLD OPINION BETTER UNDERSTAND THE FACTS."

THE UNITED STATES HAS SAID REPEATEDLY THAT THE UNDERSTANDING INCLUDED A PLEDGE BY NORTH VIETNAM TO REDUCE ITS MILITARY ACTIVITY, NOT VIOLATE THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE, AND NOT ATTACK MAJOR CITIES.

ACCORDING TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE VERSION OF THE 1968 AGREEMENT, W. AVERELL HARRIMAN, THE CHIEF U.S. NEGOTIATOR, FIRST ATTEMPTED TO APPLY THE CONDITIONS WHICH THE UNITED STATES CONTENTS STILL EXIST.

BUT, THE HANOI DOCUMENT DISCLOSED TODAY SAID: "AT THE PRIVATE MEETING ON OCT. 24, 1968, AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN SAID 'WE RECOGNIZE YOUR STATEMENT ABOUT "NO CONDITION.'" THEREFORE, WE ARE QUITE READY TO ASSURE YOU THAT, IN ANY STATEMENT ON CESSATION OF THE BOMBING, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL NOT REFER TO ANY WORD SUCH AS THE WORD "CONDITIONAL"."

THUY SAID THAT HIS SIDE "WILL CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE GOOD WILL TO FIND A POLITICAL SOLUTION" OF THE WAR BUT HE REPEATED HIS DEMANDS FOR RESUMPTION OF THE FORMAL PARIS TALKS AND CESSATION OF THE U.S. BOMBING.

THE TALKS WERE SUSPENDED MARCH 23 BY THE UNITED STATES, WHICH ACCUSED THE OTHER

NEGOTIATIONS.  
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No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-230-4-1-0

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MYFOR: KISSINGER

FROM: HAIG

THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE FOLLOWING APDISPATCH:

SOVIET-VIETNAM

MOSCOW (AP)-THE SOVIET UNION CHARGED TODAY THAT THE UNITED STATES BOMBED DOWNTOWN HANOI SUNDAY AND THEN LIED ABOUT ITS TARGETS.

"THE U.S. COMMAND IN SAIGON REPORTED U.S. PLANES ONLY BOMBED 'MILITARY TARGETS' IN THE VICINITY OF HANOI. THAT STATEMENT IS A LIE," SAID THE COMMUNIST PARTY PAPER PRAVDA.

"THE BOMBS AND ROCKETS FELL DIRECTLY ON THE CITY, INCLUDING ITS DOWNTOWN AREAS."

PRAVDA'S CORRESPONDENT IN AHNOI REPORTED 13 PERSONS WERE KILLED AND 27 INJURED IN THE ATTACK.

THE PAPER ALSO CLAIMED THE ATTACK WAS DESIGNED TO TAKE PLACE OVER THE WEEKEND "WHEN PEOPLE WERE RELAXING AND ENJOYING THEMSELVES."

OTHER SOVIET PAPERS, CONTINUED TO TELL THEIR READERS OF MEETINGS BEING HELD THROUGH THE SOVIET UNION TO PROTEST THE WEEKEND BOMBINGS OF HANOI AND HAIPHONG.

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: MORNING NEWS SUMMARY

THE WASHINGTON POST

THE SUCCESSFUL MOON LANDING OF APOLLO 16 IS HEADLINED ON PAGE 1.

JONATHAN RANDAL REPORTS THAT HANOI YESTERDAY DROPPED ITS DEMAND THAT THE U.S. STOP BOMBING NORTH VIETNAM AS A PRECONDITION FOR RESUMING BOTH SEMI-PUBLIC AND SECRET PEACE TALKS. XUAN THUY, APPARENTLY AS A RESULT OF BEHIND-THE-SCENES CONTACTS, NOTABLY SOFTENED CONDITIONS HE HAD LAID DOWN ONLY MONDAY. (A-1)

PETER OSNOS NOTES THE FALL OF HOAI AN IN BINH DINH PROVINCE AND THE FAILURE OF VIETNAMIZATION IN THAT DISTRICT. (A-1)

PETER BRAESTRUP, IN DESCRIBING THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THE REMAINDER OF SVN, NOTES THAT THE ENEMY CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON FRIENDLY TROOPS AND POSITIONS DESPITE HEAVY ALLIED AIR ATTACKS. AN ENEMY ATTEMPT TO BROADEN THE FRONT NORTH OF SAIGON IS SEEN AS A MOVE TO ISOLATE AN LOC AND TAY NINH CITY SO AS TO FURTHER DISPERSE SAIGON'S DEFENDERS. (A-1)

IN AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "U.S. LOADS BLOCKADE EXPLOSIVES," MICHAEL GETLER DISCUSSES THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE U.S. MAY MINE HAIPHONG HARBOR. HE NOTES THAT A U.S. NAVY AMMUNITION SHIP HAS BEEN LOADED WITH AERIAL MINES AT THE AMERICAN NAVAL BASE AT SUBIC BAY AND IS EXPECTED TO JOIN THE U.S. ARMADA OFF VIETNAM. U.S. MILITARY SOURCES STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE LOADING DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE U.S. HAS DECIDED TO EXERCISE THE "OPTION." (A-16)

A SALT SESSION WAS CANCELLED FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS WEEK APPARENTLY BECAUSE THE SOVIET DELEGATION HEAD DID NOT RETURN FROM CONSULTATIONS IN MOSCOW AS SCHEDULED. (A-17)

MARQUIS CHILDS ASSERTS THAT THE USE OF B-52S AND MASSIVE AIR AND NAVAL POWER MAY WELL IMPERIL THE PROMISED "GENERATION OF PEACE" AS WELL AS THE SCHEDULED MOSCOW MEETING. (A-25)

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JOSEPH ALSOP DESCRIBES THE PROLONGED BATTLE FOR AN LOC. HE STATES THAT AN LOC IS NOT A SANE MILITARY OBJECTIVE BY THE WAR'S FORMER RULES AND THUS TELLS A LOT ABOUT HANOI'S CURRENT MASSIVE OFFENSIVE IN SVN. (A-25)

THE SENATE HEARINGS ON THE NOMINATION OF RICHARD KLEINDIENST ENDED IN AN UPROAR YESTERDAY AS REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS BATTLED OVER THE LIMITATION OF QUESTIONING OF PETER FLANIGAN. (A-1)

AN ITEM ON PAGE 1 REPORTS THE RECENT COMMUNIST MILITARY SUCCESSES ALONG ROUTE 1 IN CAMBODIA LINKING PHNOM PENH AND SAIGON AND SPECULATES THAT THE ENEMY MAY REGAIN HIS OLD SANCTUARIES.

#### THE BALTIMORE SUN

NORTH VIETNAM IS CHALLENGING U.S. NAVAL POWER IN THE TONKIN GULF IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO FORCE THE U.S. TO DIVERT SOME AIRCRAFT FROM BOMBING RAIDS TO PROTECTION OF THE 30 SHIPS ALONG THE VIETNAMESE COAST. (A-2)

CHANCELLOR BRANDT ARRIVED IN LONDON FOR TWO DAYS OF TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER HEATH. (A-4)

PRESIDENT NIXON'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO MOSCOW HAS PIQUED INTEREST IN THE SOVIET UNION ON THE U.S.-CHINA-SOVIET DIPLOMATIC TRIANGLE, ACCORDING TO DEAN MILLS. HE SPECULATES THAT BY VARIOUS ANTI-CHINESE ACTIONS, THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN TURNING THE HEAT ON THE CHINESE HOPING TO EXPLOIT PEKING'S NERVOUSNESS OVER SOVIET-AMERICAN TALKS AND THEREBY NUDGE PEKING INTO A MORE CONCILIATORY MOOD ON SOVIET-CHINESE BORDER TALKS. (A-5)

AN AUTHORITATIVE WHITE HOUSE SOURCE PREDICTED THAT THE 1972 REPUBLICAN CONVENTION WOULD BE MOVED FROM SAN DIEGO TO MIAMI BEACH. (A-1)

#### THE NEW YORK TIMES

JUAN DE ONIS, COVERING THE UNCTAD MEETING IN CHILE, CITES COMMUNIST CHINA'S DENUNCIATION OF THE U.S. FOR ITS "CRIMINAL ACTS OF WAR EXPANSION" IN VIETNAM AND FOR ITS POLICY OF "EXPANSION AND PLUNDER" AT THE EXPENSE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. (A-3)

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THE "MAN IN THE NEWS" IS BRIGADIER GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT, WHO IS DESCRIBED AS COOL AND DECISIVE AND WELL-EQUIPPED FOR THE TASK OF HEADING THE PRESIDENT'S ADVANCE TEAM IN MOSCOW. (A-8)

WILLIAM BEECHER WRITES THAT INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATE THAT NORTH VIETNAM'S LAST COMBAT DIVISION IN THE NORTH HAS STARTED TO ENTER THE DMZ TOWARD THE BATTLE IN SOUTH VIETNAM, A DRAMATIC SIGN THAT HANOI IS STEPPING UP PREPARATIONS FOR A LONG CAMPAIGN IN THE NORTHERNMOST PROVINCES OF THE SOUTH. (A-16)

NEIL SHUHAN REPORTS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS CONSIDERING THE RELEASE OF THE AMERICAN VERSION OF THE 1968 BOMBING HALT UNDERSTANDING, BUT FOR THE MOMENT A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE NOT TO MAKE IT PUBLIC. (A-17)

ACCORDING TO JAMES RESTON, HANOI, AT THE END OF THE WAR, HAS MISJUDGED AMERICA AS WASHINGTON MISJUDGED NORTH VIETNAM AT THE BEGINNING. THIS IS THE ULTIMATE TRAGEDY, FOR AMERICA IS READY FOR A SETTLEMENT IF THE POLITICIANS ON BOTH SIDES WILL ONLY GIVE BACK ITS PRISONERS AND SOLDIERS. (A-39)